IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute currently amended claim number 13 for the original claim having the same claim number.

Please add for consideration new claim numbers 18-23.

1. (withdrawn) A retroviral particle for delivering a gene to a tumor tissue cell, said retroviral particle being pseudotyped with a vesicular stomatitis virus G (VSV G) protein.

2. (withdrawn) A tumor-specific retroviral expression vector comprising a suitable promoter, a retroviral untranslated sequence including a packaging sequence and a primer building site, a cloning site perably linked to an internal ribosomal entry site (IRES), said IRES being operably linked to a first nucleotide sequence encoding a suitable marker, a retroviral 3' long terminal repeat (LTR) sequence, for expressing a second nucleotide sequence inserted in said cloning site.

3. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 2, wherein said second nucleotide sequence comprises a therapeutic gene.

4. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 3, wherein said therapeutic gene comprises a suicide gene.

5. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 3, wherein said suicide gene is TK.

6. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 4, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a Herpes simplex virus thimidine kinase.

7. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said marker comprises a green fluorescent protein (GFP).

8. (withdrawn) A retroviral expression vector according to claim 5 or 7, wherein said expression protein is a GFP/TK fusion protein.

9. (withdrawn) A plasmid encoding a bicistronic, non-splicing murine retrovector comprising a multiple cloning site (MCS) operably linked to an enhanced green fluorescent (EGFP) reporter (AP2) for transferring a provirus to a target cell and expressing said provirus into said target cell, for co-expressing a nucleotide sequence inserted into said plasmid with said EGFP reporter within a bicistronic framework.

10. (withdrawn) A replication-defective retroviral expression vector comprising a suitable promoter, a retroviral untranslated sequence including a packaging sequence and a primer building site, a multiple cloning site (MCS) operably linked to an internal ribosomal entry site (IRES), said IRES being operably linked to a first nucleotide sequence encoding a suitable marker, a retroviral 3' long terminal repeat (LTR) sequence, for expressing a second DNA sequence inserted in said MCS.

11. (withdrawn) An expression vector according to claim 10, wherein said marker comprises an enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP).

12. (withdrawn) An expression vector according to claim 10, wherein said promoter comprises a CMV promoter.

13. (currently amended) A method for ~~treating a~~ inhibiting tumor growth in a mammal, the method comprising:

a) administering to a mammal ~~suspected of having a tumor~~ a tumor specific bicistronic retroviral expression vector comprising a suitable promoter, a retroviral untranslated sequence including a packaging sequence and a primer building site, a cloning site preferably linked to an internal ribosomal entry site (IRES), said IRES being operably linked to a first nucleotide sequence encoding a suitable marker which comprises green fluorescent protein, and a retroviral 3' long terminal repeat (LTR) sequence, for expressing a second nucleotide sequence inserted in said cloning site, wherein said second nucleotide sequence comprises a suicide gene, wherein said suicide gene is thymidine kinase ~~a first nucleotide sequence, said first nucleotide sequence being therapeutic, and a second~~

~~nucleotide sequence encoding a marker~~, said first and second nucleotide sequences being ~~co-dominantly~~ expressed~~,~~ ; and

b) administering to said mammal a non-toxic ~~nucleobase~~ nucleoside analog~~.~~ , wherein said nucleoside analog is gancyclovir.

14. (withdrawn) A method for detecting *in vivo* a genetically modified cell with an expression vector according to claim 9 to a tumor tissue cell of a mammal, the method comprising administering a retroviral expression vector comprising a first nucleotide sequence encoding a retrovirus and a second nucleotide sequence encoding a marker, said first and second nucleotide sequences being co-dominantly expressed, and detecting the expression of said second nucleotide sequence by using one of fluorescence microscopy and flow cytometry techniques.

15. (withdrawn) A method for producing a retroviral particle according to claim 1, the method comprising stably transfecting a suitable cell line with the expression vector of claim 9.

16. (withdrawn) A method for producing retroviral particles, the method comprising transfecting a suitable cell line with the expression vector of claim 10 and transfecting said cell line with a drug resistance plasmid.

17. (withdrawn) The cell line obtained by the method according to claim 14.

18. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein said retroviral expression vector is pseudotyped.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said retroviral expression vector is pseudotyped with Vesicular Stomatitis Virus G (VSVG) protein.

20. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the expression of said first and second nucleotide sequences results from translation from a single mRNA molecule.

21. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein said retroviral expression vector encodes a GFP/TK fusion protein.

22. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein said retroviral expression vector is a replication defective expression vector.

23. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein said promoter is a CMV promoter.